(c) by when Government is likely to finalize the fee structure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has constituted a Committee to prepare draft Regulations for admission and fee structure in self financing Universities and Colleges.

(b) and (c) the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) Committee on financing of higher education had recommended that student fee as a proportion of revenues of institutions should not exceed 20%. In the XI Plan document, the Planning Commission also has, *inter-alia,* suggested that since most university students come from top 10% of the population by income levels, they would be able to pay fees amounting to 20% of the operating cost of general higher education, and that fee levels should, therefore, be increased gradually in existing institutions, but the new norms could be implemented in new institutions from the start. The Government does not finalise the fee structure of educational institutions.

Assessment of English medium schools

3560. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what kind of mechanism Government has to test the quality of education imparted in English medium schools, where parents are spending enormous time and money;

(b) whether there is any objective basis to conduct comparative study of our schools, with those of the developed country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details as to what the Government proposes to do to promote critical thinking and to develop practical skills among the school children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Government has not conducted any study regarding the quality of education imparted in the English medium schools. However, Government of India couducts its own pupil learning achievement surveys under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) through National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The surveys aim to track changes in learning achievement levels of students and to give a national picture of the status of students' learning levels.

(b) and (c) This Ministry has not conducted any such comparative study.

(d) National Curriculum Framework (NCF)—2005, lays special emphasis on the primacy of children's experiences and their active involvement in the process of learning. The use of pedagogy to promote critical thinking among children thereby leading them away from rote learning to a reflection of their own ways of understanding and learning is an important step towards improving school education. The syllabi and textbooks developed by NCERT on the basis of NCF-2005 signify an attempt to implement the basic idea of a child-centered system of education outlined in the National Policy on Education.